

Part 3 -- Status and Form of the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A modular seat cushion for supporting a person against a seat support structure of a predetermined configuration, comprising:

5 a human interface portion having an upper surface defining a support contour for supporting an anatomical portion of the person while seated on the cushion and also having a lower surface defining a first one of two complementary portions of an interlocking structure, the lower surface of the human interface portion and the first complementary portion of the interlocking structure having a contour substantially different from the support contour of the upper surface of the
10 human interface portion; and

a base portion having an upper surface defining a second one of the two complementary portions of the interlocking structure and also having a lower surface defining a contact configuration for contacting the seat support structure, the second complementary portion of the interlocking structure interconnecting
15 with the first complementary portion of the interlocking structure upon contacting the lower surface of the human interface portion with the upper surface of the base portion, the interconnection of the first and second complementary portions of the interlocking structure mating the human interface and base portions with one another, the contact configuration having a predetermined shape which
20 complements at least a portion of the predetermined configuration of the seat support structure which the contact configuration contacts.

2. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, wherein:
the human interface portion and the base portion are both formed of resilient synthetic plastic support material.

3. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 2, wherein:
the resilient synthetic plastic support material is breathable.

4. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the human interface and base portions each comprise resilient plastic beads which have been fused together.

5. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 4, wherein: the first and second complementary portions of the interlocking structure are formed of flexible plastic beads which have been fused together.

6. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 4, wherein: the human interface and base portions are formed substantially entirely of the fused together resilient plastic beads.

7. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 2, wherein: the first and second complementary portions of the interlocking structure are formed integrally with the human interface and base portions, respectively; and

5 the first and second complementary portions of the interlocking structure are formed of the resilient synthetic plastic support material from which the human interface and base portions are formed.

8. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, wherein: the first and second complementary portions of the interlocking structure extend substantially over the entire area of the lower surface and the upper surface of the human interface portion and the base portion, respectively.

9. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, wherein: the contact configuration extends substantially over the entire area of the lower surface of the base portion.

10. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, wherein: the seat support structure substantially complements the entire contact configuration.

11. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, wherein: the seat support structure is part of a wheelchair; and

the seat support structure is one selected from a group consisting of a platform seat, sling seat, dropped platform seat, pan seat and seat shell.

12. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the lower and upper surfaces of the human interface and base portions, respectively, are of a substantially complementary shape with one another;

5 the interlocking structure comprises the complementary lower and upper surfaces of the human interface and base portions, respectively.

13. (Currently amended) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, wherein:

one of the first or second complementary portions of the interlocking structure comprises a protrusion extending from one of the lower or upper surface
5 of the human interface ~~or portion~~ or the upper surface of the base portions,
~~respectively~~ portion;

the other one of the first or second complementary portions of the interlocking structure comprises a recess formed into the ~~lower~~ other one ~~or upper~~
of the lower surface of the human interface ~~or portion~~ or the upper surface of the
10 base portions, ~~respectively~~ portion; and

the recess has a complementary configuration and size to the configuration and size of the protrusion.

14. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 13, wherein:

the protrusion extends outward from the lower surface of the human interface portion; and

the recess extends inward from the upper surface of the base
5 portion.

15. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 14, wherein:

the interlocking structure comprises the lower surface of the human interface portion from which the protrusion extends and the upper surface of the base portion into which the recess extends.

16. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 14, wherein:
a portion of the lower surface of the human interface portion adjacent to the protrusion has a complementary shape to a portion of the upper surface of the base portion adjacent to the recess; and

5 the interlocking structure comprises the portion of the lower surface of the human interface portion adjacent to the protrusion and the portion of the upper surface of the base portion adjacent to the recess.

17. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 14, wherein:
the recess extends completely through the base portion to define a hole in the base portion.

18. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 17, wherein:
the protrusion extends through the hole in the base portion and contacts the seat support structure when the human interface and base portions are interconnected together and the cushion is supported by the seat support
5 structure.

19. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

a covering that encases the interconnected human interface and base portion portions.

20. (Currently amended) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the human interface portion is one of a plurality of different human interface portions;

5 each different human interface portion has a different support contour;

the base portion is one of a plurality of different base portions;
each different base portion has a different contact configuration; and
the first complementary portion of the interlocking structures of all of
10 the plurality of different human interface portions are consistent in configuration
with one another; and

the second complementary portion of the interlocking structures of all
of the plurality of different base portions are consistent in configuration with one
another.

21. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 20, wherein:
the support contour of one of the plurality of different human interface
portions accommodates the specific anatomy of the person.

22. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 21, wherein:
at least two human interface portions of the plurality of different
human interface portions each have a different support contour; and
each of the different support contours accommodates respectively
5 different generalized anatomical proportions of a person within one of at least two
different generalized classes of persons.

23. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 20, wherein:
each of the different support contours accommodates respectively
different generalized anatomical proportions of a person within one of at least two
different generalized classes of persons.

24. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, wherein:
the predetermined configuration of the seat support structure
includes a portion which has essentially the same shape characteristics as the
second complementary portion of the interlocking structure of the base portion;
5 and

the first complementary portion of the interlocking structure of the
human interface portion interconnects with the portion of the seat support structure

which has essentially the same shape characteristics as the second complementary portion of the interlocking structure.

25. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, wherein:
the predetermined configuration of the seat support structure includes a portion which has a shape that is complementary to the first complementary portion of the interlocking structure of the human interface portion;

5 and

the first complementary portion of the interlocking structure of the human interface portion interconnects with the portion of the seat support structure which has a shape that is complementary to the first complementary portion of the interlocking structure.

26. (Original) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, wherein:
the seat support structure includes the base portion; and
the second complementary portion of the interlocking structure and the contact configuration of the base portion are formed in the seat support structure as a unitary structure having the shape of the second complementary portion of the interlocking structure.

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27.-54. (Canceled)

55. (New) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 1, wherein:
the upper surface of the base portion and the second portion of the interlocking structure have a contour substantially different from the contact configuration of the lower surface of the base portion.

56. (New) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 24, wherein:
the portion of the seat support structure which has essentially the same shape characteristics as the second complementary portion of the interlocking structure of the base portion constitutes a bottom wall; and further comprising:

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a back wall which extends vertically upward from the bottom wall at a location to contact the back of the upper torso of the wheelchair user.

57. (New) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 25, wherein:

the portion of the seat support structure which has a shape that is complementary to the first complementary portion of the interlocking structure of the base portion constitutes a bottom wall; and further comprising:

5 a back wall which extends vertically upward from the bottom wall at a location to contact the back of the upper torso of the wheelchair user.

58. (New) A modular seat cushion as defined in claim 26, further comprising:

a back wall which extends vertically upward from the base portion at a location to contact the back of the upper torso of the wheelchair user.